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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 69, ISSUE NO. 2 | SEPTEMBER 17, 2008 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

Valley Students Not Fazed by Security Concerns

BY LAUREN LEES
STAFF WRITER

A young woman walking to her car in an El Camino Community College parking garage was attacked Sept. 5 when a man came up behind her, covered her mouth and touched the inside of her thigh. After she fought him off, the suspect fled the scene.

A few hours later, on the other side of town, two USC students experienced similar incidents. One, however, was not so lucky with her attacker. Within 24 hours, three separate sexual assault attacks occurred on college campuses, yet their reverberations have yet to reach Valley College's students.

Sophomore student Nisha Ahmed said, "I feel pretty safe; for a community college, it [Valley] doesn't have too many freaky people."

The last sexual assault case on campus occurred in 2006. The campus' biggest crimes are parking citations; lost property; student/non student fights; moving violations; and petty theft, according to the Sheriff's Department's 2007 crime statistics.

Last month, the top crimes on campus were parking citations (96), grand theft (2), and one case of petty theft, vandalism and trespassing each.

Deputy Rick Baker, team leader of Valley's Sheriff's Department, commented on Valley's crime statistics, "Awareness is 95 percent of controlling a community college... The school here has engaged in bringing more awareness on campus."

Currently a staff of 23 security personnel circulates the campus 24 hours every day, of every week. The department's staff is composed of two Los Angeles Sheriff's Department deputies, 11 security officers and 10 student cadets. Baker hopes to add at least two more cadets within the coming weeks.

Zipping around campus in electric carts or rolling through parking lots in police cars, the campus police pass out citations, unlock doors, and patrol hot spots, such as the bookstore and the new Allied Health Building.

Student Cadet Todd Hill said, "We are really diligent about obviously being aware of who is on campus."

The college's police also provide an escort service for students, faculty and staff, who can request an escort to their car by contacting the Sheriff's Department at 947-2911 or by dialing *80 from campus pay phones.

The escort service does depend on student's access to a telephone, which as Valley Student Ben Moye recognizes, might not be enough in an emergency. "There's no emergency call boxes for people who are in a situation where they don't feel safe, to call them [the campus police]."

The on-campus construction does not go without notice for some students, who perceive it more than just an annoyance. "It's in the middle of the way and blocks what people can see," said second-year student Tanya Kandralyan. "I'm sure it gets in the way for campus police."

With Monarch Square nothing but a fence, and dis-

see *Security* page 5

SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

Financial Aid Made Simpler

BY LAUREN LEES
STAFF WRITER

Faced with the apprehension of students who apply for financial aid, Valley College turns its focus to expediting the financial aid process and educating students.

Barbara Ralston, associate dean of financial aid, has a new story to tell of a student who recalls how he received his financial aid awards in under an hour.

"Now that I'm receiving financial aid, I can focus more on school."

- Mike Jones

"I met this student who told me how he was able to get $4000 in less than an hour," she said. "Of course the whole process might take a little longer than an hour, it shows how the financial aid process is becoming easier."

For many students, financial aid is the difference between going to school and having to work.

"I used to work full time and it took a lot away from school," stated Mike Jones, a 21-year-old Valley student. "Now that I'm receiving financial aid, I can

see *Financial Aid* page 5

SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

THE INTERCEPTION - Valley College corner back Damien Chisolm, No. 20, comes down with the ball in one of the key plays of the game during the Monarch's 17-13 upset over powerhouse Bakersfield College Saturday at Monarch Stadium. Chisolm's interception and long return stopped a critical Bakersfield scoring drive and gave the Monarchs excellent field position.

Monarchs Stun Renegades

BY H. GORE
STAFF WRITER

People that believe in the full moon's ability to change the behavior of humans might be on to something. One week after barking at one another like wild dogs, Valley College transformed into a football team for a 17-13 victory at Monarch Stadium over the Bakersfield College Renegades.

The turning point in the game came with 1:49 remaining in the first quarter. Valley trailed 7-0 when quarterback Bret Visciglia hooked up with receiver Gerald Scarber for a 70-yard touchdown. The Monarchs were facing 3-and-13 and a blitzing Bakersfield defense on the play, and seemed to shock the Renegades with the strike. BC coach Jeff Chudy took the blame for the defensive breakdown and the loss.

"I didn't do a very good job as a head coach of getting this thing straightened out. I made a foolish call on a third-and-12 in the first half, the first quarter that gave them a little momentum," said Chudy.

Bakersfield and Valley traded field goals in the second quarter, and went to the half tied at 10. Valley wide receiver Matt Johnson missed this game with a separated shoulder, and will return to the lineup next weekend. Although he was sidelined Johnson said he was motivated by head coach Jimmy Sims' halftime speech.

"He told the team that we have them [Bakersfield] on their heels. They're tired so we have to keep the pedal to the metal and something good will happen," recited Johnson.

Bakersfield started the scoring in the third quarter with another field goal from Arturo Villa to take a 13-10 lead. That's when the 'something good' happened.

At this point last week, the Monarchs would have turned against one another and begun arguing and finger pointing. Under the full moon, the players rallied around each other

see *Football* page 6

Continuing Budget Crisis Plagues Valley

JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

BUDGET CRISIS – The Valley College Budget Committee met Sept. 9 to discuss solutions to reduce the $4 million deficit plaguing the school.

BY LAUREN LEES
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's Budget Committee voted Sept. 9 not to cut student and tutor budgets as a way to reduce a $4 million deficit.

This motion came after a threat by Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor Mark Drummond; all community colleges with a proposed school year budget deficit of more than $1 million risk a fiscal takeover by an outside agency. Valley's deficit sits at a little over $5.1 million. The administration was looking at student worker and tutoring budget cuts as a possible solution.

"I will go back and look

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Grades aren't students' most pressing concern - it's finding a parking spot.
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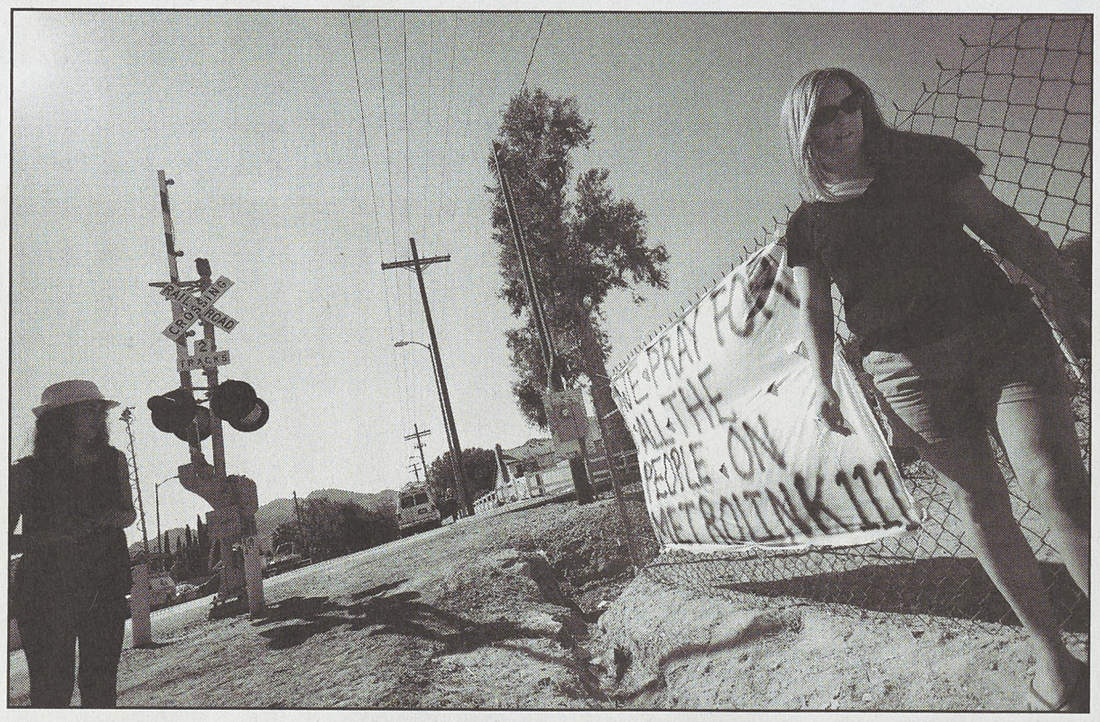


Photos and Text by Jonathan Gibby

A PRAYER FOR ALL - Chatsworth residents Dana Davis and daughter (above) hang a tribute for the passengers of Metrolink 111 near the scene of last weeks deadly crash. Metrolink workers (right) scour last weeks crash site in search for any clues in their investigation.

Presidential Hopefuls Court College Students

BY JOE LAFLEUR
STAFF WRITER

The nation is in an election year, and once again the presidential candidates are vying for our votes. The big issues are being raised and Americans are asking themselves, "Which candidate represents me best?" The choices: Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain. For college students, however, there is one important question we must ask ourselves - "How will each candidate affect me and my education?"

College affordability is an issue that has been gaining more significance with each election but it has yet to be solved. According to Obama's Website, BarackObama.com, "College costs have grown nearly 40 percent in the past five years. The average graduate leaves college with over $19,000 in debt. And between 2001 and 2010, 2 million academically qualified students will not go to college because they cannot afford it."

With 42 percent of all new jobs this decade requiring some post-secondary education, according to education.com, most students cannot afford to skip college.

So how do the candidates propose to help students afford higher education?

Obama is promising to create a new American tax credit for students. It is fully refundable and, for most students, will ensure that the first $4,000 of a college education is paid for. At the average public college or university, this will cover two-thirds the cost of tuition. For community college students, this will mean a free education for all who qualify.

Alternatively, John McCain has remained, for the most part, quiet on the subject of college affordability. What he does plan to do, according to JohnMcCain.com, is make existing tax benefits and the Federal Financial Aid process more straightforward for students and their families. McCains's Website states that the senator feels the solution to making college affordable is to simplify.

"Consolidating programs will help simplify the administration of these programs, and help more students have a better understanding of their eligibility for aid,"

Simplification is something that McCain and Obama can agree on, as Obama also plans to ease the financial aid process, but not by consolidating programs. The Democratic candidate wants to eliminate the federal financial aid application entirely and allow families to apply simply by checking a box on their tax form. This will give the government permission to use the information and make a separate application unnecessary.

Obama also plans on creating a Community College Partnership Program. "I'll tap the tremendous resource of community colleges, which educate half the undergraduates in this country, by creating a new Community College Partnership Program," he said in a Nov. 7 speech. "We'll help schools determine what skills and technical education are needed to help local industry; we'll expand new degrees for emerging fields and we'll reward schools that graduate more students."

While Obama plans on linking community colleges to our

see *Candidates* page 5

A Look Back to This Week in History

VALLEY STAR Sept. 15, 1977

Aspen, California? – Valley College did not let the sunny weather get in the way of learning how to ski, with the construction of an on campus instructional ski slope well under way on. The slope, which also acted as a barrier for the archery field, was built at no extra cost to the college because of excavations already completed in the spring. The slope only needed its artificial surface applied before students could start calling themselves snow bunnies, but due to budget constraints, the opening of the slope was set pushed back a year.

In the Swim – Construction on new pool facilities was ahead of schedule thanks to the work of building crews over the summer. The $300,000 facility was set to open December of the same year, complete with diving boards, dressing rooms and accomodations for disabled students. According to Donald Brunet, dean of administrative services, the pool would be partly heated by solar power, giving a hint to the 'think green' Valley of today.

Job Club Prepares Students for Life

BY ANDY ALCARAZ
STAFF WRITER

Many students, day after day, eagerly head into Valley College's job training office with wide-eyed expectations of getting one step closer to finding employment.

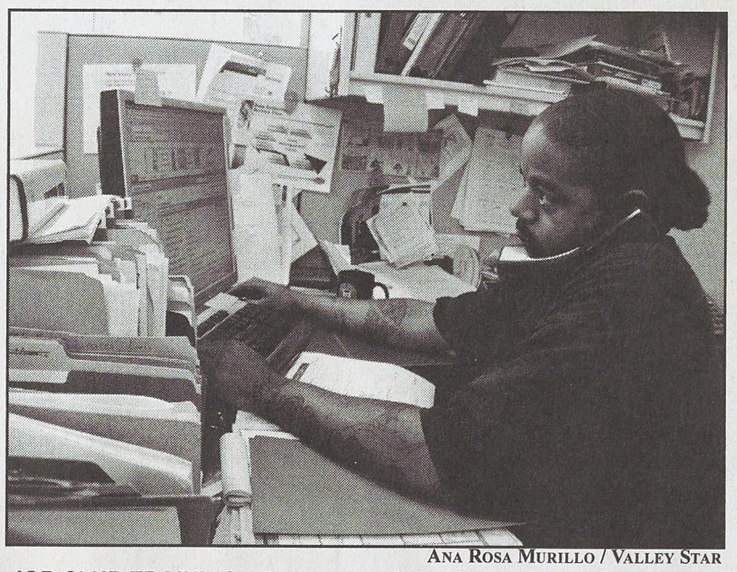
"I was looking for a job opportunity," said Franciso Vidana, a Chicano studies major, "but I was referred elsewhere."

More often than not, students like Francisco are advised to seek out Bungalow 48, on the edge of campus. Once there, they'll find daily updated job and internship postings. But that is not to say the office has nothing to offer the campus and its inhabitants. In fact, it is quite the opposite.

"We have a job club here on campus," said Marnece Stewart, a program support specialist for the job training office. "It's a place where both job seekers and job developers can network with each other."

The Job Club, open to both students and members of the community, is a three-tiered program aiming to help job seekers find employment through social networking.

The first part of the club is the orientation, a brief description about Job Club and its functionality.



ANA ROSA MURILLO / VALLEY STAR

JOB CLUB TRAINING - Program specialist Marnece Stewart participates in a training meeting conference call as he gathers emails from enthusiastic Job Club members.

Second, the job readiness section, is a discussion where job tips, resume writing strategies, labor market trends and information are a different topic each week. The third tier, is the employer recruitment section, which offers attendees a chance to meet with actual employers.

The benefits and resourcefulness of the Job Club, however, do not stop there. Through the job training office, students and members of the community can enroll in occupational certificate courses and customized course academies.

These programs are specifically designed to train future employees in a number of fields, varying from child development to metal machining to healthcare. Upon completion, a graduate from any of these programs can attend a job club with the hopes of networking with potential employers.

"What we do is align education with employment through direct contacts, unlike other departments," said Doug Marriot, project director for job training, "and the Job Club is what gives us the opportunity to do that."

The Job Club started more than 10 years ago and is now held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month in the Cafeteria Conference Room from 9a.m. to 12p.m. Its main goal is to provide two types of employment: Stop-Gap / Band-Aid employment (temporary hire positions) and Gainful employment (career geared positions) for any interested parties, be they students or members of the community.

"We're trying to have a job club, not just for students, but for the whole [San Fernando] Valley, said Stewart, a firm believer in the job training programs and in Job Club. "We really do change lives."

Among the companies that have attended are Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles, Superior Groceries, Warner Bros., Harman/Becker Automotive Systems, and Kaiser Permanente.

Valley's Non-Resident Students Not Ready for Fee Change

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A change in Los Angeles Community College District policy means that non-resident students can continue to enroll in up to six units during the fall and pay the same tuition as a California resident.

The decision comes after the District Board met Aug. 20 and voted to make the 2009 winter session the new cutoff date for the fee waiver. Non-resident students will be able to enroll in up to four units, or one class that is more than four units, but less than six units, and pay the same fees as a California resident.

"The logic was that the waiver, up to six units, was quite costly for the district," said Florentino Manzano, dean of enrollment management. "The six units really attracted a lot more students than we thought it would."

"The logic was that the waiver . . . was costly for the district. The six units really attracted a lot more students than we thought it would."
- Florentino Manzano

He also stated that the policy was originally brought about to assist out-of-state high school students who are concurrently enrolled at Valley, and the change would still help those students.

Currently, California residents pay $20 per unit for classes at Valley College. Out-of-state students pay an additional $181 per unit and non-residents from another country pay an added $191 per unit.

According to the LACCD board rules, if a non-resident student enrolls in more than the number of allowable units under the fee waiver, they will be liable to pay non-resident fees for all units taken.

International students attending Valley can take advantage of the fee waiver during the winter and summer sessions, something that student Stefanie Wieschalla has done since the waiver's inception Jan. 1 of this year.

"I planned to take two classes again in the winter, adding up to six units. So actually I am shocked to hear that they will change this rule," said Wieschalla, a communications major from Germany. "For me it is really important to take these cheaper classes. Now I won't be able to take the two classes that I planned to take."

Out of state student Josh Bovill will also be affected by the change. Bovill, who has been living in California for approximately two years, was unable to prove residency to the College and as a result must still pay additional fees.

"Prior to this semester I had taken 6 units each semester....My plan was to take 6 units every semester until I could claim residency so that I could keep up with a regular full-time student's fall/spring schedule," said Bovill, a music performance major. "The change in rates will hinder this plan."

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sandy Mayo does not expect the change to non-resident fees to significantly affect enrollment numbers.

"I don't think we're going to be able to tell [if there is a change]... We are seeing a surge in enrollment which is basically due to the downturn in the economy," said Mayo. "When there is a downturn in the economy, people are out of work, and they come back to school to find new skills...I believe [the change] will be invisible."

Parking, Where Art Thou?

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
EDITOR IN CHEIF

What is ten feet wide, twenty feet long and screws Valley College students? Parking spaces. Any student attending Valley can sympathize with the parking situation, even if four wheels are not their chosen mode of transportation. Each morning as students pour into campus, it is a common sight to see cars just sitting in the aisles of each lot, waiting for an empty space that will never appear. We all know that hanging around won't cause that spot to open up, but we all just keep dreaming.

The joy of parking at Valley can be attributed to many things. The ongoing construction wreaks havoc on the spaces available, whether it be cordoning off for construction equipment, or something as simple as tree trimming. But the reason for the lack of spaces can be whittled down to one thing, supply and demand.

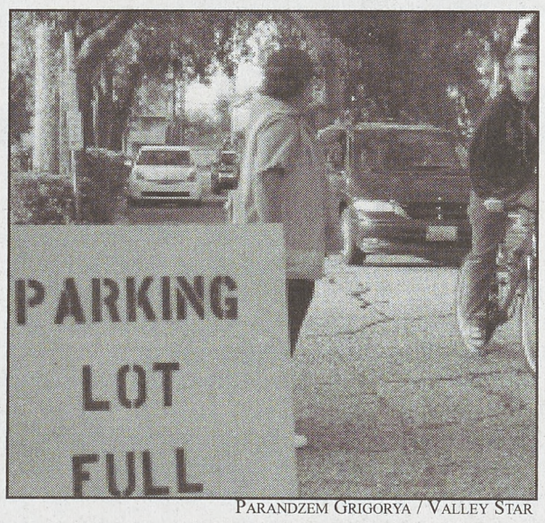
According to our college district, Valley has over 17,000 students enrolled. Of course, not all these students are on campus at once, but it doesn't help that there are not nearly enough spaces for all the students, not to mention staff and faculty, who need them. Once the "revitalization" of Valley is complete, there will be additional parking, but that does not help any of us now. As much fun as it in to whine, we need to take our parking fate into our own hands, and do something to change it.

Ignore the uncool factor and carpool with your friends. It reeks of soccer mom, but taking a few friends to school with you can help someone else find a spot sooner. In the times we live in, any opportunity to save gas is a good one and besides, the commute to school won't be so lonely or long with your pals in the back seat.

Waiting for a bus that sometimes never comes can be trying, but bite the bullet and take the Orange Line. A monthly pass is just $36 dollars, which could get you enough gas to run your car for two weeks. The price of the pass is soon forgotten as you step off the bus and waltz straight into class, passing all the suckers still waiting for a space to pop up in Lot A.

At least Valley has it better than other college campuses around the San Fernando Valley. We only shell out $20 a semester for the privilege of parking, and we get it for free during the summer and winter. Be prepared for a nasty shock when you transfer to a place like CSUN, where students will hand over $162 of their hard earned cash to park their ride this semester and the parking problems are just as bad.

So tomorrow morning when you are about to head into school, ditch your wheels. You'll help your pals out, you'll avoid the horrendous parking, and we will have one less person's complaints to listen to.



PARANDZEM GRIGORYA / VALLEY STAR

Playing the Gender Card

BY KRISTEN BECKER
NEWS EDITOR

Politics has always been dirty, but there are times where politicians outdo even themselves in the mud they fling at their opponent.

While discussing the McCain campaign's attempt to hijack his campaign theme of change, Democratic presidential nominee Sen. Barack Obama said, "You know you can put lipstick on a pig, but it's still a pig." Almost as soon as the words left his lips, John McCain's campaign spokespeople were accusing the Illinois Democrat of using sexist attacks against Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

The reasoning they used? As Brian Rogers, a spokesman for the Arizona senator explained, "Who has been talking about lipstick lately?"

Obama is only guilty of being unoriginal and using a tired cliché during a campaign rally.

This tendency to cry sexism is unfortunately becoming a habit for Republicans. McCain advisor Carly Fiorina even claimed that Obama defending his executive experience by pointing out that he has more employees in his campaign and a higher budget than Palin did while mayor of Wasilla, Alaska was using Palin's gender against her, despite the fact that nowhere in his comments did Obama mention her sex.

"Who has been talking about lipstick lately?"

- Arizona senator Brian Rogers

We talk so much about gender equality, but along with access to the same jobs as men and equal pay for equal work comes the reality that we women, like our male counterparts, must be ready to take the criticism that comes along with more responsibility and power.

Any politician should know that they will be subject to attacks from their opponent and scrutiny from the media. Just because the candidate is a woman does not mean she should receive special treatment.

Those in the blogosphere who are calling Palin a bad mother for not staying at home with her family are tapping into a form of misogyny working women have had to battle for decades. However, the questions being raised about Palin's views and leadership skills are ones that need to be answered. Until a few weeks ago, the Alaska governor was unknown to most outside of her home state.

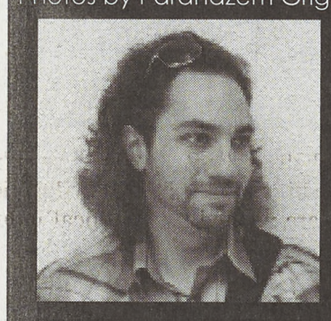
Given the potential she has to make history as the United States' first female vice president, she has the weight of all American women on her shoulders. It is up to her to present herself in a way that proves to the skeptics that women are strong enough to run this country.

The way the Republicans are responding to any criticism of Palin is doing the opposite – they seem to be inferring that women are too fragile to deal with anything less than glowing praise and adoration.

Considering that the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission received 24,826 complaints of sexual discrimination in 2007, this is still a serious issue in American society. Sexism is a fact most women have had to endure at some point in their lives, not a convenient device to score cheap political points.

CAMPUS VIEW: *What do you think about the parking at Valley?*

Photos by Parandzem Grigoryan



"It's horrible. I heard a rumor about preferred parking but haven't seen anything yet. Parking attendants throw up full signs before the lot is even full!"

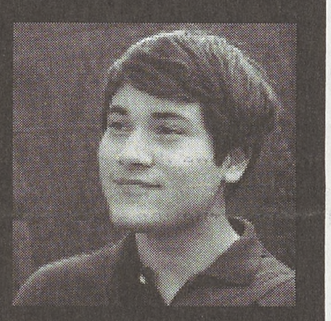
- Jonathan Austin
astronomy

"It depends on the time of day. You should know what you're doing and get straight in, it's common sense. I don't think it's as bad as people make out."

-Mary Setien
liberal studies

"If it's late it's not a problem. If you have morning classes, then that's when the problems come."

-Jessica Belle
journalism



"There's always tons of traffic. I have a motorbike so I'm lucky. I just park in between the tons and tons of cars."

-Marcos Fuentes
biology

Politics Just Got Real: Presidential Idol

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Unless you've been in a media blackout, you know there is a Presidential Election in just 48 days, but with all the hype, students should focus on facts rather than the Hollywood "vote or die" mentality.

As college students, we are bombarded with election news everywhere we look, and for some it will be their first time being old enough to cast a ballot. But in an age of 'American Idol' and 'Dancing with the Stars,' voting has become an act of creating instant celebrity. This election needs to be more than a VH-1 reality show. It is not enough to just vote, we need to vote smart.

18-29 year olds cast 17 percent of ballots in the 2004 Presidential Election

- U.S. Census Bureau

It is easy to become enraptured by messages of "hope," but look behind the curtain to see what your favorite candidate stands for and their thoughts on the issues that affect you. As Valley College students, we have no excuse for failing to vote with our minds and not by who makes a guest spot on "Saturday Night Live."

Our campus is full of ways to be informed. The library has a reading room full of literature on the current candidates, as well as the history of American politics itself. The Lions' Den offers use of their computers with Internet access to visit the web pages of the candidates and their critics. Campus clubs like Democracy Matters can be seen on Club Days in Monarch Square, reminding students the importance of knowing the issues.

Take responsibility for your vote. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 18-29 year olds cast 17 percent of ballots in the 2004 Presidential Election. That number is enough to decide who will be in the Oval Office. Just because Sarah Palin was on four magazine covers holding her baby this week doesn't mean she is ready to deal with the rising conflict with Russia.

In the words of Winston Churchill "The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter." Try asking someone in your next class to name all the candidates, and then ask them to name the finalists from "American Idol." The answers may frighten you.

As an American citizen it is your civic duty to vote, and as a student it is your duty to do your homework. The Presidential Election may be the most important final you can take, with a ballot instead of a scantron. Don't cheat yourself or your country and don't copy someone else's answer.

The Darker Side of Mickey & Co.

BY SARAH KNOWLES
OPINION EDITOR

Long gone are the days of The Lion King and The Little Mermaid, the bright moments we all remember from our innocent childhood times. The youngsters of today now contend with sex slander and teen pregnancy all because of America's own; Disney.

The worldly empire has risen to new heights after The Disney Channel launched back in 1997, and is now the main focus of tweens the world over. The overwhelming success and popularity has lead to the creation of many a young superstar, from Britney Spears and The Mickey Mouse Club to the now popular Miley Cyrus. The series premiere of Hannah Montana brought in 5.4 million viewers according to Disney Channel Entertainment, a record for the channel. But with most of these stars hitting rock bottom, we cannot afford to leave small impressionable minds open to this worldwide franchise.

"These are all building blocks," said Anne Sweeney, the president of Disney-ABC Television Group. "Every new piece of this franchise opens a new door."

While Disney accountants are enjoying every moment of their success with our younger population, the affects of current trends are worrying parents across the country.

"Posing like that for anyone at the age of 15 is just a terrible way to be a role model," said parent Anna Johnson in response to the Cyrus fiasco.

The Miley Cyrus Vanity Fair cover issue is now infamous but still a worrying reminder of the issues our youngsters are faced with far too soon through Disney.

ILLUSTRATION / EDUARDO HERRERA / VALLEY STAR

The worrying trends aren't limited to the disappointing acts of Cyrus. Jamie Lynne Spears recently gave birth after announcing her pregnancy at just 16 years old. After the bombshell news, 17 teenagers became pregnant at a Massachusetts high school, more than four times higher the previous year's rate according to the school records.

While Jamie Lynne deals with her issues she has been no stranger to trouble. Older sister Britney has faced bad times over the past two years that any mother would hate; of course, she began her crazy career with Disney.

While the good old days of Disney are gone and forgotten, the current monster taking over our children is around to stay. We need to tame the beast and keep Britney and company's mishaps back in Louisiana where they belong.

WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com or call (818) 947-2576.

Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.

VALLEY LIFE

WHAT'S NEW @ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

On Tour With Scott Mitchell
By Scott Mitchell

NFL Week 3
By H.Gore

Movie Review- Lake View Terrace
By Yasmine Jackson

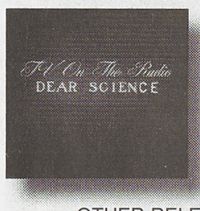
Kickin' It Old School
By Josh Spence

Game Review- The Force Unleashed
By Brad Taylor

UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



TV ON THE RADIO, *DEAR SCIENCE*

OTHER RELEASES:
Pussycat Dolls, *Doll Domination*
Kings of Leon, *Only By The Night*
T.I., *Paper Trail*
Oasis, *Dig Out Your Soul*

FILM

PICK OF THE WEEK:

GHOST TOWN, *RICKY GERVAIS, GREG KINNEAR, TEA LEONI*

UPCOMING RELEASES:
Lakeview Terrace,*Samuel L. Jackson*
The Dutchess, *Kiera Knightly*
Igor, *John Cusack, Steve Buscemi*

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:

SPEED RACER *Emile Hirsch, Christina Ricci, Matthew Fox*

OTHER RELEASES:
Made of Honor
The Love Guru
88 Minutes
Young @ Heart

DON'T FORGET TO YouTube

Beached Whale
Beached Whale Explosion
Metallica- The Day That Never Comes
Husker Du- Makes No Sense At All

DON'T FORGET TO TiVo

Boston Legal- Mondays on ABC
House- Tuesdays on Fox
Dinner Impossible-Wed. on Food Network
Kath and Kim- Thursdays on NBC

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All events held in Career/Transfer Center unless other wise indicated. Call (818) 947-2646 for further information.

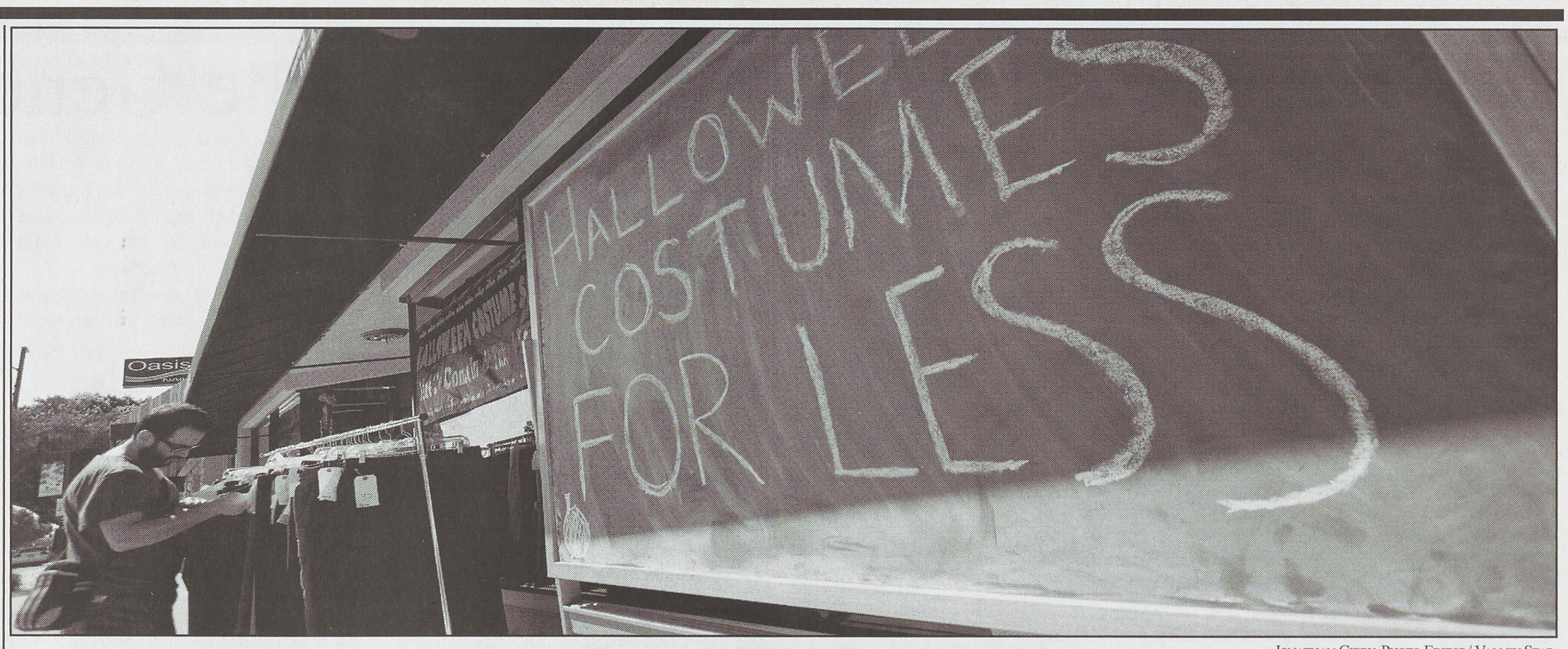
Thursday, September 18

UCLA Rep 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23

How to Transfer Workshop 5:30 p.m.

Additional content online - Go to
www.lavalleystar.com



JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR

THRIFTY NIFTY – The popular thift store "Its A Wrap" offers discount costumes and clothes fresh off the sets of nearby studios.

Good Times and Finds on Magnolia Boulevard

LAUREN LEES
STAFF WRITER

Eclectic, eccentric, funky, and unique are the best words to describe the five-block stretch of Magnolia Boulevard between Screenland and California Street. Ranging from vintage clothing stores, a Cuban bakery, and a store dedicated to everything jellybeans, this comely little street is the perfect place to spend the afternoon hunting through racks of clothes, staring at Star Wars figurines, and sampling black pepper flavored jellybeans.

If clothes are your vice, American Way Thrift Store has just what you want. Whether its jackets, purses, belts, or even TVs, this place has it all with prices ranging from $1.99 and up. There are always guaranteed sales, on any given day,

Right next door lays Hubba Hubba! where owner Pat Taylor welcomes everyone who walks in. The store deals strictly with vintage clothes from 30s-60s, but the prices are on the high end, ranging from $20 and up. If you want an idea of exactly what she sells just check out the TV show "Mad Men", costume designers from the show regularly shop at her store.

Across the street you will find It's a Wrap Production, a store with clothing from the stars. The store has been open for 20 years, and only sells clothes and accessories from the studios. You will never know if end up with a shirt from Hannah Montana or shoes from CSI Miami.

Joy for Junk is a Halloween favorite here, with lines winding down the block and around the corner during the month of Oct. They sell clothes from the 60s to the 90s and if you are dire need of neon orange platform boots, wigs, or suspenders then their junk can definitely be your joy.

When it is time for lunch there is no place better than the famous Porto's Bakery, a staple of Magnolia Boulevard since its arrival in 1993. They have everything from sandwiches, salads, desserts, and their famous Porto balls. The prices are reasonable enough, a sandwich cost about $7 and you can eat outside while enjoying the scenery.

If you're looking for sweets, The Jelly Bean Factory, located on Hollywood Way right across from Porto's has been open for 30 years, and sells everything jellybean. Bean Boozled, the newest and most popular items there, offers rotten egg, skunk, and black pepper flavored jellybeans, only for those with adventurous taste buds.

Rounding out this retro little promenade is Blast from the Past, also on Hollywood Way. Home to 'The Simpsons' figurines, Star War collectibles, comic books, posters, an arcade machine, and toys from today and yesterday, this is the perfect place to find a gift for a friend with a sense of humor.

Anything and everything you could want can be found on this quaint little street. With an afternoon to burn, this cozy little boulevard will remain a pastime for anyone who wants good finds, nice scenery, and decent prices.

Movie Review

Coen Brothers "Burn" and Sizzle

JOE LAFLEUR
STAFF WRITER

One C.I.A. Superior sits behind a mahogany desk located in his office in Washington D.C. Leaning backward in a leather chair, American flag to his right and C.I.A. insignia located on the wall behind him he asks the question to his subordinate, "what do we learn, Palmer?" "I don't know, sir," he replies.

This is the movie, "Burn After Reading." Captured within those two lines of dialogue is a precise description of the feeling you're left with when you exit the theater. Any attempt to describe the film otherwise would be as difficult as it was to understand the motivation that drove yet another successful, smart, dark comedy by the Coen brothers, fresh off their Academy Award win for "No Country for Old Men."

"Burn" is a film in which three Hardbodies Fitness Center employees, Chad Feldheimer (Brad Pitt), Linda Litzke (Frances McDormand) and Ted Teffron (Richard Jenkins) find a disc, containing the financial data and memoir of recently fired C.I.A. analyst and alcoholic Osborne Cox (John Malkovich). McDormand and Pitt confuse the disc with secret C.I.A. information and in an attempt to sell the files back to Malkovich, madness ensues.

To say that there was no method to the Coen brother's madness would not be accurate. They have a style so distinct that this type of film is expected. "Burn" consists of the same violence and humor of their 1996 Academy Award winning, "Fargo," yet is driven less by plot than any other Coen brothers film.

For additional content see see us online @
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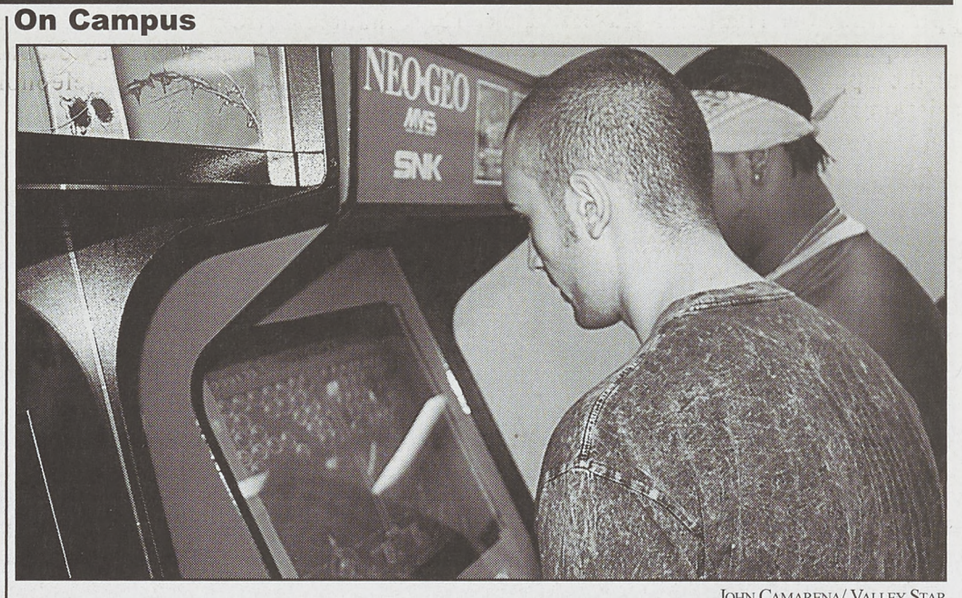
On Campus



JOHN CAMARENA/ VALLEY STAR

LESS WORK MORE PLAY – The Lion's Den gives students the opportunity to unwind with a few of their favorite old-school video games, a pool table, or good old fashion television.

Stepping Into The Lions' Den

SHARON HARDWICK
STAFF WRITER

It's 10:05 a.m. From the corner of the cafeteria a once-dark and unexciting looking room lights up. Computers hum expectantly. Pool tables are game. A few students, mostly girls, are taking up seats at the monitors. A few more students, all guys, are camped out watching a movie on the black leather sofas that ash and sag from all the lounging they've had to bear. Brett Nard, who knows everyone that comes in, mans the information station. Always smiling, he makes sure everyone feels welcome. Once in a while, he'll go around his desk to push a runaway chair back into place. This is the Lion's Den, an Associated Student Union sponsored lounge for students.

Not many students know about the Lion's Den and there is no sign outside the room to tell them. On one side there are 16 computers with Internet access. On the other, a large screen television, two pool tables (due to the constant theft of the cues, they're now located behind the information desk) and a three shoot-'em-up arcade games. Although there are no formal discussions about renovating the space, the ASU is looking at what they can do to improve the area. "ASU is always trying to improve facilities for students," elaborates Fernando Alvarez, commissioner of public relations for ASU. "We have to hammer out upcoming events first though, and then take on other projects."

The Lion's Den is Valley College's only recreation area for students, however it hasn't been successful at drawing off cafeteria traffic and get people to come in. "Many people see the computers and assume we're a computer lab," says Nard. "They don't see what's on the other side." However, its placement inside the cafeteria make the no food and drink policy a difficult sell to students who may want to wander in

The Lion's Den may also be a difficult sell to female students. Although it is a friendly (entirely due to Nard and his smile), clean space it is not charming in the way lounges often are. This isn't an issue for the guys who are quite content with the dark gray/light grey color scheme, dirty sofas, fluorescent lighting and hodge-podge furniture. All this, however, may be the reason why the girls stay on the other side of the dividing wall. "[This is a] kick back place for students to hang out before and after class," said Nard. "A home away from home." But even Nard admits he'd like to see some art on the walls.

The Lion's Den, located in the cafeteria, is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.–7 p.m. A portion of the $7 ASU fee students pay each semester goes toward maintenance of the Lion's Den. If students have ideas about how to improve the space, they can attend one of the ASU executive meetings held on Tuesdays in CC104. "Anybody can attend ASU executive meetings," says Josh Bovill, secretary of ASU. "It's an open forum for students to speak." Although the Lion's Den is not the most elegant of spaces, it is run by the students, for the students and Nard, for one, would be happy to see more people come by.

"Meatatarians" Offered Options

ANDY ALCAREZ
STAFF WRITER

Ahhh…The dreaded questions that every vegetarian fears, the looming inquiries that hover over every curious person's head, the enigma "meatatarian's" can't seem to figure out. What exactly do vegetarians eat? Isn't it expensive? The answer is simple. No, it's not an overpriced plate of vegetables otherwise known as a salad. Please, those things haven't been in fashion since the advent of the veggie burger. Today, there are options. That's right, the average Valley College vegetarian can go just about anywhere to fill their empty stomachs, literally anywhere and not empty their wallet.

Have you ever been with a "meatatarian" late at night, stricken with a bad case of the munchies and they asked you what you could eat, as if there were no options? If so, three cheers to them for asking, but here are the facts. In-N-Out offers a grilled cheese alternative (a hamburger sans meat), Wendy's has many baked potato options, Burger King has a veggie burger, and Taco Bell's value menu has a hefty amount of no beef items to name a few. Yet the most beautiful thing of all, you're looking at spending no more than $5.

But if you're not the fast food type, don't fret. There are plenty of vegetarian hot spots near Valley, and you don't even have to drive that far. On the corner of Burbank Boulevard and Fulton Avenue, restaurants like Sharky's Mexican Food and Grandma's Thai Kitchen are catering to the needs of the no meat brigade.

"We give customers options," said Mod Sang, the manager of Grandma's Thai Kitchen. "They don't have to stick to traditional items." In fact, Grandma's has one whole side of their menu specifically vegetarian. Items like Tofu Chow Mein and Red Curry are just a few of the enticing vegetarian ready courses, while Sharky's offers tofu substitutes on all of their meat containing foods.

However, if you're still not satisfied and have some time on your hands between classes, there is Leonor's Mexican and Vegetarian Food. A ten-minute drive from Valley, it is conveniently located on Victory Boulevard and Tujunga Avenue. There, you'll find some great choices. Leonor's has everything from wholeweat pizza to burritos, to sandwiches and soup. Apparently, the company isn't bad either.

"A variety of different eclectic people come here," said Elizabeth Garcia, daughter of owner Leonor Garcia. "A whole new younger generation, it's nice to be able to relate."

All of these "sit-ins" will run you about $10 for a full meal, but for the quantity and quality, it's more than a fair price.

Here's to you "meatatarians."

'Financial Aid'

continued from page 1

focus more on school."

Ralston believes in the financial aid process and sees how helpful it is for students like Mike Jones.

"I think financial aid is important because it creates doors of opportunity for students and families who may think they cannot afford a college education to obtain one, and this changes lives for the better," Ralston said. "It's also important to dispel the many myths about financial aid that students will not qualify for a variety of reasons, some of which are posted on our website."

Some of those myths include how many units a student needs to be enrolled in – there is no maximum. Students can apply with as little as six units, although it does affect how much money the student is eligible for.

The financial aid office, which is located in a bungalow behind Monarch Hall, offers a new "on-the-spot" review, where a financial aid technician corrects and verifies the application, before turning it in. This allows students to be confident their forms are correct before they are submitted.

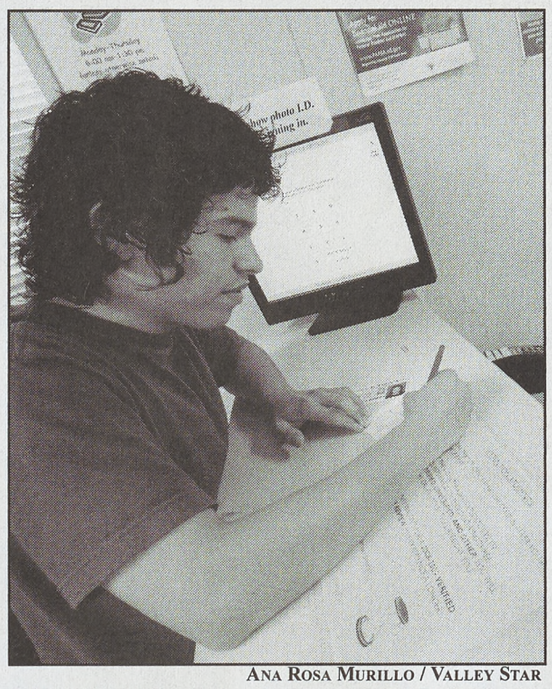
The process starts with filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students who qualify can receive up to $2000 per semester in Pell Grants and $1551 in Cal Grants; the student does not have to pay these grants back.

Applicants can also qualify for federal work study, through which the federal government pays for half employee wages in on or off-campus jobs. Students only need six units or more to be eligible, and every student who fills out the FAFSA is automatically considered for work study.

The Board of Governors Fee Waiver is a two-page application that, if approved, waives all enrollment fees.

For those students intimidated by the application, the financial aid office offers a computer lab, where students can fill out the application on line with additional assistance if needed.

Ralston encourages filling out the application on line.



ANA ROSA MURILLO / VALLEY STAR

APPLY WITHIN – Valley College student Ronald Mendez fills out a financial aid form to help him pay for the increasing cost of education.

"I don't think the paper application will be available much longer," she said.

While the traditional paper process takes weeks to be verified through the school, the online application takes around 72 hours.

The electronic fund transfer is another faster avenue for financial aid recipients. It allows checks to be sent directly into the recipient's bank account instead of forcing the student to wait for it to arrive by snail mail. This limits the risk of the check getting lost or stolen.

Although most of the important deadlines have passed, students can still apply for the Federal Pell Grant and the BOG Fee Waiver. Information on student loans is also available through the financial aid office.

For more information about receiving financial aid, visit Valley's Web site at www.lavc.edu and click on Fees and Financial Aid. The office is also open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The telephone number is 947-2412.

'Budget'

continued from page 1

Sue Carleo, of the current budget deficit. "That's fine with me. My concern is that there is not enough stuff that is cuttable."

The Writing Center, home to both tutoring services and a computer lab, would be just one of the many services affected by the proposed cut. According to Scott Weigand, director of the Writing Center, 3500 students use its service and the computer lab clocked in 14,000 hours last year.

Sheri Berger, the math department chair, commented, "5,500 students are enrolled this semester in math classes; we will probably serve over 20 percent of them, which is over 1,000 students in the math lab."

Like the Writing Center, the Math Lab, could lose money for tutors and student workers.

During the meeting, the topic of discussion turned to different solutions instead of reducing student worker and tutoring funds. Phyllis Yasuda, director of the Learning Center, astronomy instructor David Falk and Transfer Alliance Program Director Lynn Polasek listed different ways to decrease the budget.

They included considering sponsorships for the school's athletic teams, closing the campus during winter break, and having administration earn 80 percent pay during the summer, to match what faculty members who teach during summer sessions make.

"It showed great initiative," ASU President Josh Logan said of the different proposed solutions. "It's thinking outside the box. It's how to cut money without hurting the students. I was happy about that."

Valley student Zachary Paul, who attended the meeting to support limiting the reductions on student workers and tutors said, "I felt that we succeeded in our goals, temporarily at least, for keeping the 2300 [student worker account] and 2400 [tutoring account] programs, but I'm a little anxious about what's going to happen next."

The actions of the budget committee will be relayed to the President. Although she attended the meeting, it will not be until the College Council meets that she will receive the formal recommendation for a zero percent reduction.

The next college council meeting is Sept. 23 in the President's Conference Room at 2 p.m.

'Candidates'

continued from page 2

universities, McCain's focus is to "prepare them for the 21st century."

"We must rise to the challenge and modernize our universities so that they retain their status as producers of the most skilled workforce in the world," McCain says on his website. "The answer is not to impose more regulations on institutions, but to encourage the government to support innovative approaches to education, removing regulatory barriers that prevent us from moving forward with new ideas."

Despite differences in each candidate's plans for the future of this nation's colleges, they share the same common goal of improvement. However, their plans for making higher education more accessible and affordable for all qualified students differ. Ultimately, it is up to the student to decide who has the best interests of this country's academic future in mind.

'Security'

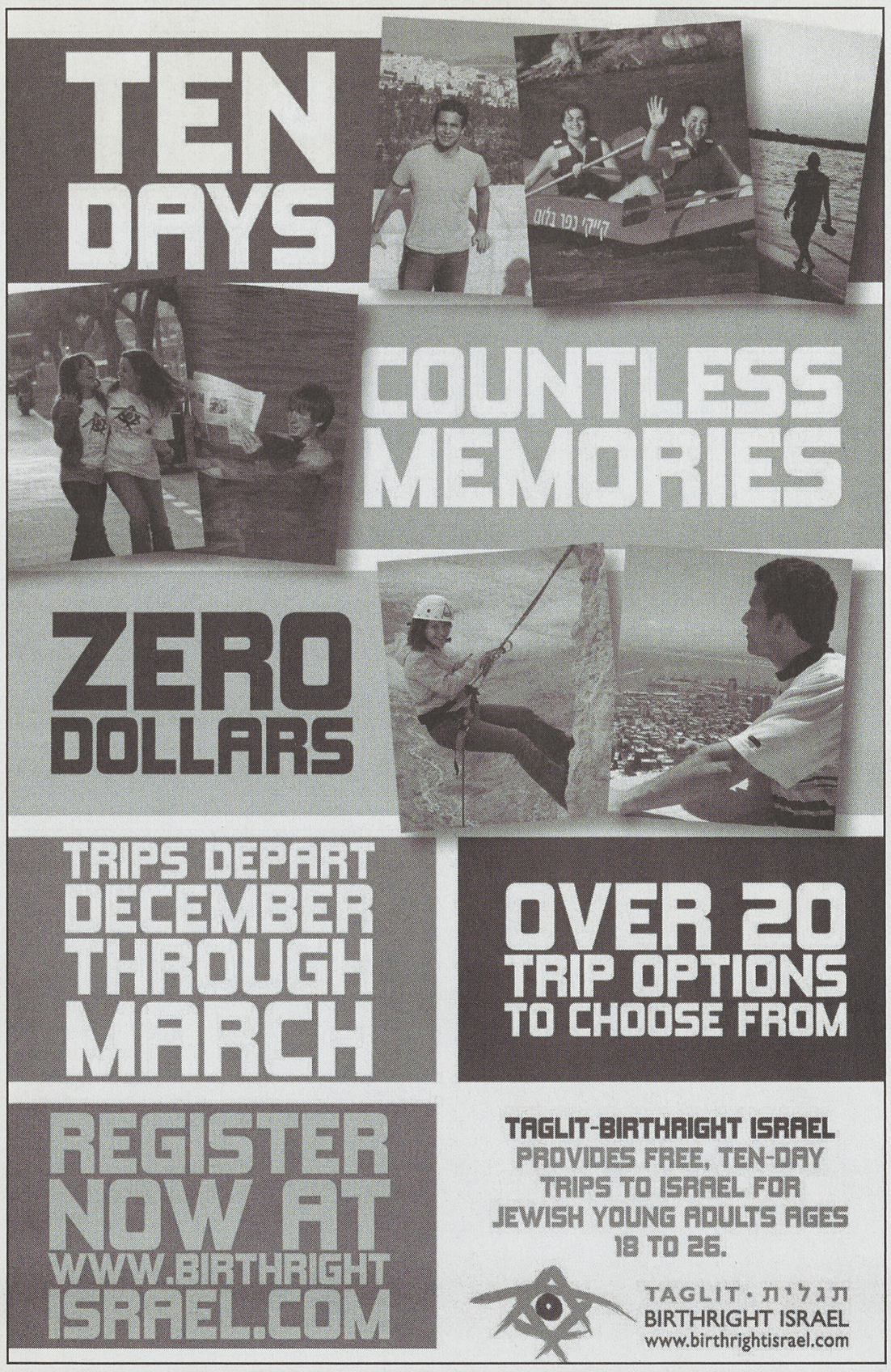
continued from page 1

persed construction sites throughout the campus, there is more dust, people, and creative new walkways popping up all over the place.

"The construction has presented unique challenges for the sheriff department," Baker admitted. "We are increasing patrols to areas with heavy foot traffic and vehicular traffic."

Still most students feel safe on campus even though there are students elsewhere learning in fear. "It does kind of bother me, but it does not scare me, Ahmed said about the recent attacks at other colleges. "It is really lit [here] and there's always people around."

Affected or not, according to campus police, it's crucial for students to walk in groups, be mindful of their belongings, be aware of their surroundings and report all suspicious activities to the Sheriff's Department.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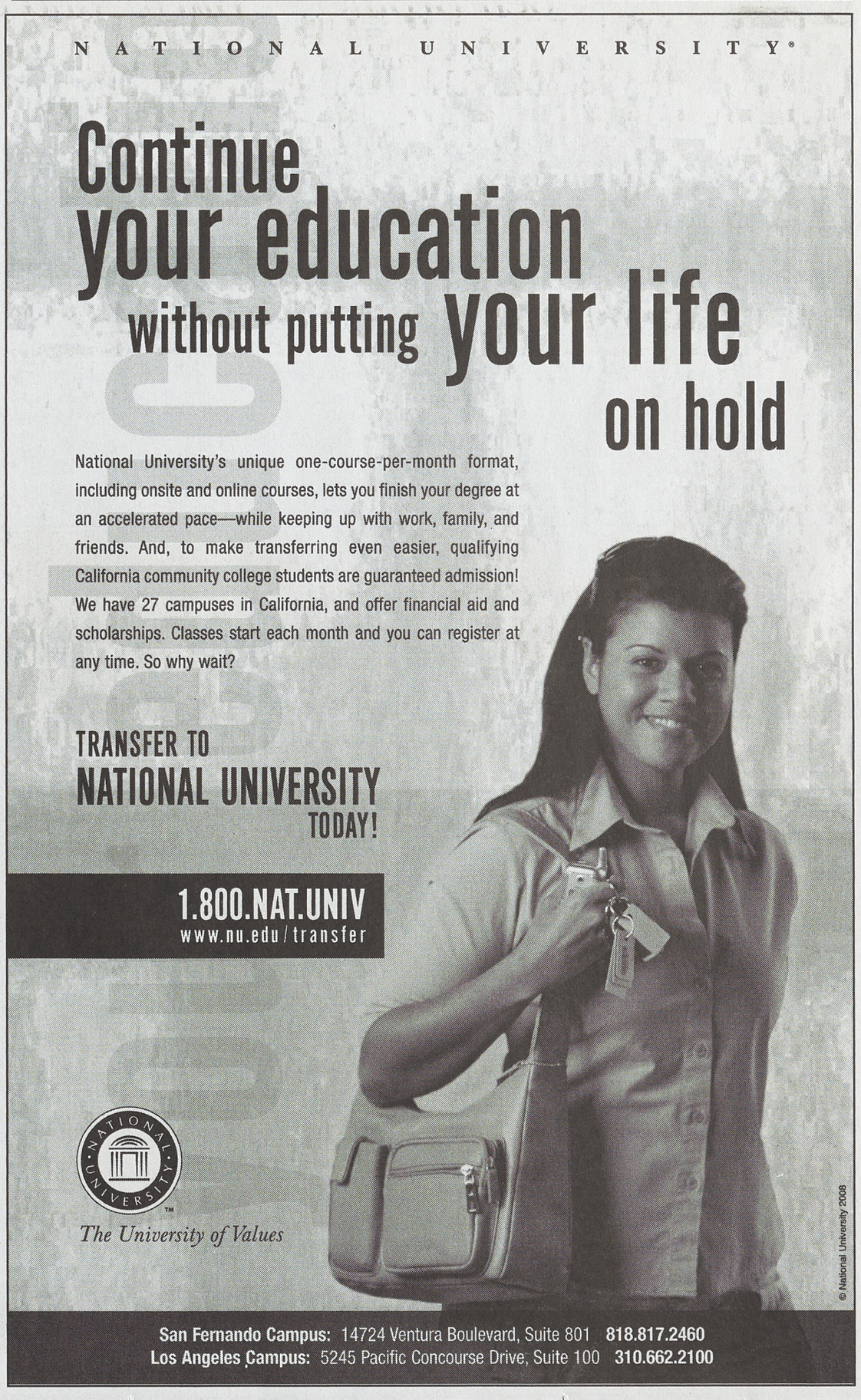
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SPORTS

SPORTS REPORT

FOOTBALL PACIFIC CONFERENCE

COLLEGE	PC	ALL
Valley	-	**1-1**
West L.A.	-	1-1
Antelope Valley	-	0-2
East L.A	-	0-2
Pierce	-	0-2
Southwest	-	0-2
Santa Barbara	-	0-2
Santa Monica	-	0-2

WATER POLO WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE MEN*

COLLEGE	WSC	ALL
Cuesta	-	6-2
Valley	-	**4-6**
Citrus	-	2-4
Ventura	-	1-2
Santa Monica	-	0-2

WOMEN*

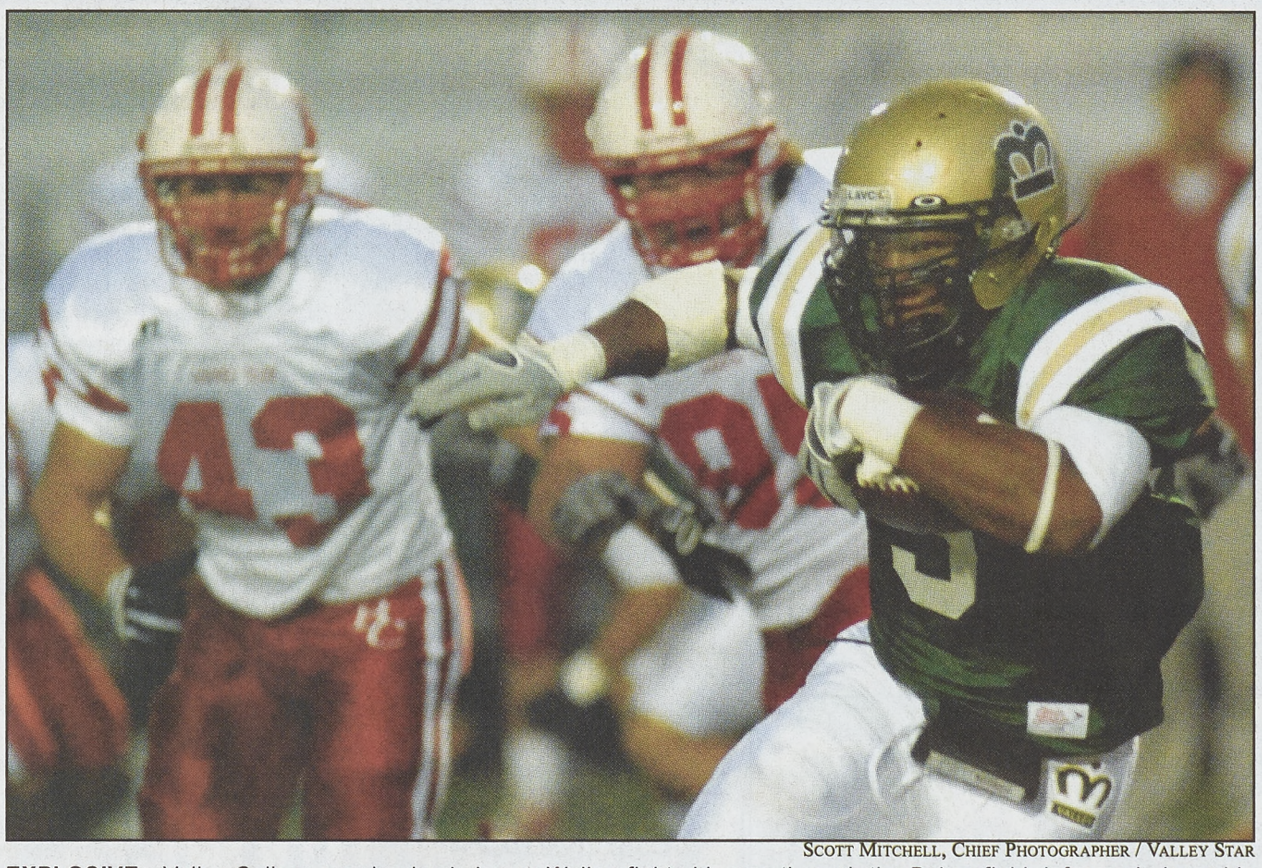
COLLEGE	WSC	ALL
Valley	-	**4-0**
Citrus	-	2-2
Ventura	-	2-2
Cuesta	-	3-6
Santa Monica	-	0-2

** Results as of 9-15-08*

WOMEN'S SOCCER WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE - SOUTH

COLLEGE	WSC	ALL
Pierce	-	5-2-1
Santa Monica	-	3-0-2
Bakersfield	-	3-1-1
Glendale	-	3-1-1
Mission	-	3-3
Citrus	-	2-2-1
Valley	-	**1-2-2**
Canyons	-	1-5

LAVC Monarch Spirit is looking for new members! Those with cheer or dance experience can try out Sept. 18 at 8:15 p.m. in the North Gym. For more information, contact Rachel Paul at paulra@lavc.edu.



SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

EXPLOSIVE - Valley College running back James Walker fights his way through the Bakersfield defense during a big run against Bakersfield on Saturday at Monarch Stadium. After the game, wide receiver Gerald Scarber said "The offense and the defense made each other work hard and we came up with a win."

'Football'

continued from page 1

as evidenced by the entire sideline chanting "ooooo-ooooo-oooo-offense" when the team had the ball.

The Monarchs answered the BC field goal with 1:31 remaining in the third quarter when Visciglia connected with Scarber again. The 26-yard touchdown made the score 17-13, and gave Valley their first lead of the game and the season.

The Monarchs and Renegades played a defensive, scoreless fourth quarter, but Valley didn't secure the victory until the last play of the game. Bakersfield managed to drive to the Valley 25-yard line with no timeouts setting up two scoring opportunities in the final 12 seconds. The clock expired as Renegade quarterback Nick Gauthier's pass was batted down at the goal line, and the Valley College sideline erupted.

Bret Visciglia finished the game 15-25 with 267 yards and two touchdowns in his first game as outright quarterback of the team. Valley used two quarterbacks in last week's game against Ventura, which helped offensive coordinator Dameon Porter decide on one quarterback for the future.

"Going in to the season we had two freshmen and we weren't sure which guy was the guy and I felt after last week's game Bret was a little more solid and I think he showed that tonight," said Porter.

The Monarchs defense played a huge role in the victory, with the only bad news for them being they surrendered over 500 yards of offense to the Renegades. The positives were holding Bakersfield to 13 points, a fumble recovery in the end zone by linebacker Wayne Saumalu, an interception in the end zone by cornerback Damien Chisolm, and stops on the final two plays of the game.

"College of the Canyons is one of the top rated programs in the country. Beating Bakersfield is a huge upset ... hopefully this carries over for us"

- Valley Head Coach Jimmy Sims

Valley College head coach Jimmy Sims credits his coaching staff with the victory.

"Sometimes you have to look and say great job coaching staff. The offensive staff did a great job of preparing the kid [Bret Visciglia] for the game and the receivers started catching some balls. And, the defensive coaches deserve a lot of credit for putting in a new system in three days," said Simms.

The Monarchs take their first road trip of the season next week to play College of the Canyons. Coach Sims looks to build on the big victory.

"College of the Canyons is one of the top rated programs in the country. Beating Bakersfield is a huge upset, and hopefully this carries over for us," said Sims.

Valley Drowns El Camino in the Pool

BY LAUREN LEES AND SCOTT MITCHELL
STAFF WRITERS

The Monarch men's water polo team defeated the El Camino Warriors on Thursday with an 8-2 victory at home, but the team still feels there was much more work to do.

After the win, player Jarrod Przebieda stated, "We just weren't executing well in offense or defense."

However, the story in the water tells a different tale. John Hicks put Valley in the lead with a point scored during the first period. Two more points were added by Przebieda in the second, one of them a penalty shot from a foul from Camino's goalie. Jacob Cook snuck in the fourth point at periods end, ending the first half with a 4-0 lead.

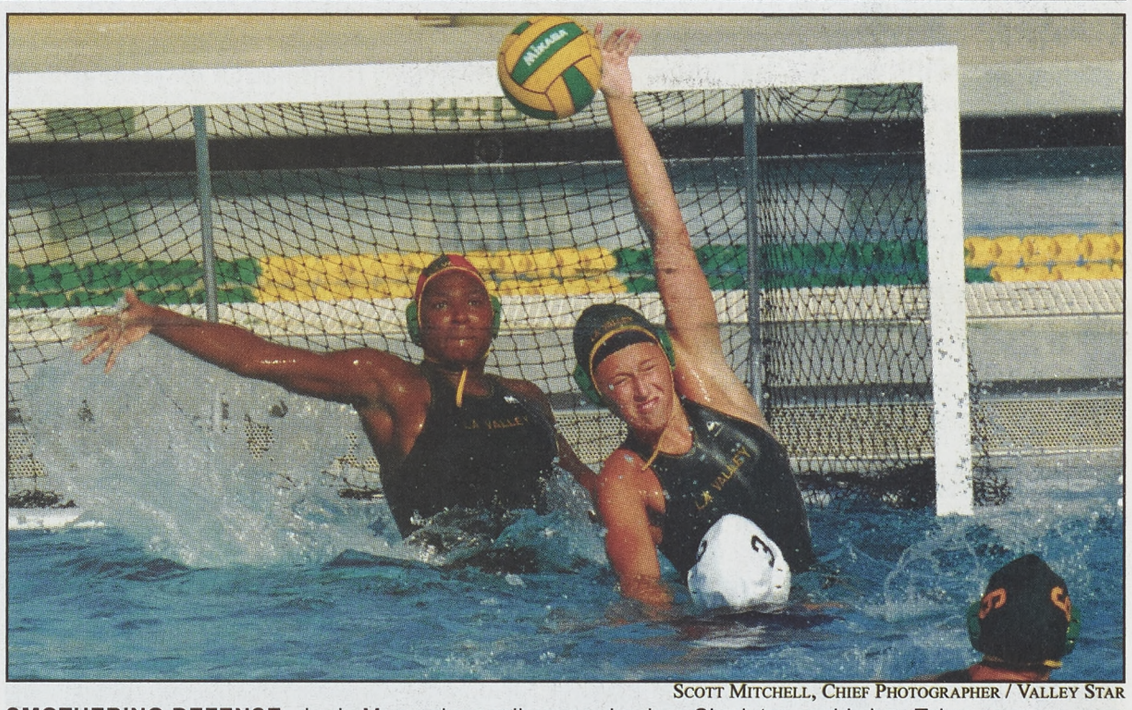
The men started out the second half with a few quick penalties and with strong defense led by goalkeeper Nathan Neil, preventing all Camino's power play shots. With only two and half minutes left on the clock, Camino finally scored, with their second point coming with 16 seconds left in the game.

Goalkeepers Kyle Stone and Nathan Neil dominated the Monarch defense, managing to block most of the shots aimed towards the net.

Spectators could easily say that Valley is in for a good season. Nevertheless, do not tell coach Jim McMillan that.

"I don't look at the score as much as I look at how the team did," said McMillan after the game. "I would rather have my team play well and win by one then make many mistakes and win by a lot".

The Valley women also took on El Camino in the pool at home, dominating to take a 18-2 win. It seemed as though the Monarchs were able to score at will as they jumped to a 6-0 lead at the end of the first period.



SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

SMOTHERING DEFENSE - Lady Monarchs goalkeepers Lachee Singleton and Lybov Tchougounova were dominant forces in the 18- 2 home game win over El Camino College on Thursday.

Monarch goalkeeper Lachee Singleton had a strong game for the Monarchs, making key saves and brilliant outlet passes. On the offensive end, sophomore scoring sensation Lybov Tchougounova could not be stopped. Scoring four first period goals, "Ms. T" helped to break the game wide open, leaving Valley with a 13-0 half time lead. Camino's offense caught the Monarch defense with their guard down with a pretty two on one break away, and avoided a shutout by scoring their first goal of the game with three minutes left in the third period.

The win for the women set them up for a strong performance at the El Camino Mini Tournament over the weekend, with the Monarchs winning all their games. The men also played at the Mini Tournament, but could not match the women, losing all four matches.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

TENACIOUS DEFENSE

The Monarch defensive squad played a big part in the 17-13 win over Bakersfield on Saturday at Monarch Stadium. Looking back to last weeks loss to Ventura, running back James Walker said, "We didn't prepare well last week. You don't prepare well, you don't play well. We got some confidence tonight."

Cubs Fans - Keep The Dream to Yourselves

BY JOE LAFLEUR
STAFF WRITER

As September slowly fades and October creeps closer, baseball fans everywhere dream of one thing – playoffs. The picture is becoming clearer as the games pass as to which teams will move closer to their dreams of glory, and which will only dream of what could have been from their sofas at home. As a baseball fan, I look forward to this time of year, but as a fan of the Chicago Cubs I dread it. For me, no matter how good things may look it means one thing; heartbreak.

At press time, the Cubs are six wins away from clinching a spot in the post season and have the best record in the National League. I am ecstatic, yet I am terrified.

I know this may sound strange to you. Why am I scared if my team is doing so well? Let me remind you that we are talking about the Chicago Cubs, a team that has not won a World Series since 1908. If you try to pinpoint a reason as to why the Cubs have the longest World Series drought, you can't. Each year, it seems to be something different. The one constant however; Cubs fans will do anything to get their team a world championship even it means never mentioning it.

Fans of baseball are superstitious people. There are certain things you do not do when it comes to this sport. For example, you never mention a perfect game or a no-hitter while it is happening, no matter who you are. You never say a play is 'routine', no game is ever won until the last out is recorded and there are no such things as curses. These are unwritten rules, passed from generation to generation, yet we often forget them.

"For 100 years we have echoed the mantra 'this is the year,' yet after each season we're leaving the ballpark saying 'wait until next year'"

We Cubs fans have learned through our misfortune the things we must and must not do. In 2003, baseball fans became familiar with the name, Steve Bartman. We were four outs away from going to our first World Series since 1945, and one fairly innocent, turtleneck wearing fan with headphones reached across the left-field railing in pursuit of a foul ball that had a date with Moises Alou's glove. This triggered a series of errors and a Marlin's rally that ended in a game six loss and devastation in game seven. We came so close to something Cubs fans dream about every year, only to have it blow past us like so many autumn leaves. It is this fans belief that it was not Bartman's fault; it was the fault of those of us who thought we had it won in the eighth inning.

For 100 years we have echoed the mantra, "this is the year," yet after each season we're leaving the ballpark saying, "wait until next year."

Cubs fans have become callused and pessimistic people, always expecting the worst yet secretly hoping for the best. We are closet optimists and we are desperate. So on this, our 100th anniversary of the last Cubs World Championship, I feel it is my duty to ask but one request from you fans, sportscasters, analysts, writers and players alike. Please, do not predict that the Cubs will win the World Series this year.